



# Peace and Security

## United States Embassy in South Africa

### AMERICA INVESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

*"Many sub-Saharan African countries are major players in the world affairs policy arena... such as the United Nations General Assembly. The United States then should look to partner with African nations on key policy issues."*



*Constance Berry Newman  
Assistant Secretary of State for Africa*

### BACKGROUND

South Africa is a leader in promoting regional stability. South Africa served as chair of the African Union from July 2002 to July 2003. President Thabo Mbeki and South Africa led successful negotiations to resolve the internal and external aspects of the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The U.S. provided diplomatic and financial backing to South Africa during negotiations.

The U.S. also supported South African-led negotiations to end civil strife in Burundi. We have assisted with the deployment of about 1,400 South African peacekeeping troops to Burundi and the DRC.

We share a concern for democracy and the rule of law in Africa. Events in Zimbabwe undermine democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and directly impact South African and American interests. The U.S. continues its dialogue with South African leaders on what steps might be taken to address this multifaceted crisis.

To advance regional stability, the U.S. military and the South African National Defense Force (SANDF) have increased their contacts at all levels and stepped up joint exercises that have been mutually beneficial and facilitated interoperability between our military forces. The binational Defense Committee meets annually to discuss activities such as professional training, future exercises aimed at improved readiness, and procurement of military goods and services in both nations.

### WHAT IS THE U.S. MISSION DOING?

- We manage over \$13.6 million in Foreign Military Funds for equipment, defense reform, and aircraft maintenance to help South Africa respond to peacekeeping requests and future regional disasters.
- We gave over \$1 million worth of advanced night vision goggles to the South African Air Force to improve its ability to support peacekeeping operations.
- Since the onset of the food crisis in February 2002, the U.S. Government has been the single largest contributor of food assistance to the region, providing or pledging more than \$293 million in assistance.
- We contributed \$2 million to support South African-led negotiations to end Burundi's civil war. We provided an additional \$6 million for South Africa's Special Protection Unit operating in Burundi.
- We gave \$900,000 in Enhanced International Peacekeeping Capabilities (EIPC) funds to strengthen South Africa's peacekeeping capacity and to develop a national peacekeeping training center in South Africa.
- The Department of Defense is training SANDF members to combat HIV/AIDS via awareness and prevention seminars. The chaplains' ethical and spiritual conduct program is another tool being developed for combating HIV/AIDS.



*New York National Guard and South African Navy participate in a West Africa Training Cruise exercise as part of an ongoing partnership arrangement*

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- South Africa led successful negotiations to remove foreign troops from the DRC and establish an inclusive transitional government. The U.S. contributed \$1.5 million to support the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and \$800,000 to support South Africa's participation in the Third Party Verification Mechanism in the DRC.
- SANDF and New York National Guard (NYNG) representatives are developing joint events to enhance South African military effectiveness under a State Partnership Program that includes visits by NYNG to South Africa, familiarization trips to the U.S. or Europe for SANDF personnel to observe military exercises, and ship visits.
- The HSV-2 Swift docked at several SA naval bases during the 2004 West African Training Cruise.



- Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation John S. Wolf met with South African counterparts to discuss non-proliferation issues in April 2003.
- The DOD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program spent \$800,000 training SANDF personnel in FY03 on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. We have trained over 20,000 SANDF members so far under this program.

### EXCHANGE OF VISITS

The U.S. and South Africa conduct regular exchanges, ranging from high-level military officials to groups from defense colleges. SANDF members study at several U.S. military institutions and installations. Ten SANDF General Officers were invited to visit the European Command Headquarters. Nine SANDF members observed Exercise Combined Endeavor in Bulgaria.

SANDF personnel have taken a range of courses including: Defense Resource Management; Peace-keeping for Decision Makers; Leadership Program in Trauma and Disaster Systems Management; Civil Military Relations; Legal Military Justice; International Health Resource Management; and Equal Opportunity for Staff Advisors.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- We are sending South African defense sector officials on counter-terrorism training courses under a \$100,000 counter terrorism fellowship program.
- The Military-to-Military Engagement Program is implementing over 35 events with the SANDF and U.S. militaries, ranging from national military strategy to Augusta A109 Helicopter familiarization.
- Two U.S. Army Military Police Officers from Ft. Riley, Kansas visited SANDF counterparts and exchanged information. This led to an additional 17 requests for engagement between U.S. and SANDF Military Police personnel.
- After the visit of two SAAF C-130 flight crew members to the NY Air National Guard as part of the State Partnership Program, numerous additional visits are planned.
- In July 2004, U.S. and South African militaries held the MEDFLAG exercise in South Africa, which focused on disaster relief and medical assistance to local communities. Future such exercises are planned.



## USEFUL WEBSITES

### U.S. Department of State:

<http://www.usinfo.state.gov/topical/pol/>

<http://www.usinfo.state.gov/topical/pol/conflict/keynogs>

[http://www.usinfo.state.gov/africa/peace & security](http://www.usinfo.state.gov/africa/peace%20&%20security)

### Center for Defense Information:

<http://cdi.org/>

### National Defense University:

<http://www.ndu.edu/>

### U.S. Department of Defense:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/>